

Habitat Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Joes Valley PJ Retreatment

Proposal Number: 1159

DWR Region: Southeastern Region

Lead Agency: USFS

County: Emery

Project Manager: Daron Reynolds

PM Phone: 4356370041

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 08/01/2008

Project Location: Joes Valley Reservoir

Project Description: Remove juniper encroachment in sagebrush, ponderosa and cottonwood vegetation types.

Description of Problem/Need: This project was treated in 2004 by hand and with a bull hog attachment. Treatment consisted of removing approximately 80% of the pinyon/juniper under 12 inches at diameter at root collar (DRC) for half of the units and 60% of the pinyon/juniper under 10 DRC. This resulted in approximately 40% of all pinyon/juniper being removed. After completion of the initial project it was found by the north zone fuels specialist and north wildlife biologist that too much pinyon/juniper remained in the area. The Manti-La Sal is in need of matching funds, \$35,000.00, to implement the Joe's Valley PJ Retreat project.

Objectives: 1) Proposed Treatment:

- a) Remove 90 percent of the pinyon/juniper within the shrub, cottonwood and ponderosa pine cover types. Larger pinyon pine is the preferred leave tree in areas where ponderosa pine and cottonwood are not present.
- b) Remove all pinyon/juniper within 66 feet of ponderosa pine, cottonwood and curlleaf mahogany and remove dead curl leaf mahogany.
- c) Remove all trees within the drip-line of existing ponderosa pine.
- d) No mechanized equipment will be used on slopes greater than 35 percent. Chainsaws will be used on slopes greater than 35 percent.
- e) No tree removal is permitted within 15 feet of the center of dry swales.
- f) Concentration burning under the ponderosa pine will occur following hand and mechanical treatment to reduce fine fuel loading (less than 3 inch) by 40 percent across the project area.
- g) Mechanically treat 30-70 percent of the serviceberry and other shrub species to stimulate sprouting.
- h) Posts and poles may be removed by the general public for personal use provided no "wheeled" vehicles are utilized.
- i) Mechanical retreatment will occur 4-5 years following the initial treatment or when 50% of the pinyon/juniper is above 5 feet.
- j) Concentration burning under the ponderosa pine will be put on a 3-15 year burn rotation to mimic natural fire regimes and reduce the chance of catastrophic fire.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: The Manti-La Sal National Forest and UPCD has accomplished the 4500 acre Black Dragon project which is approximately 4 miles south of this project. The Forest Service will be implementing an 805 acre project called Middle Mountain which is 2 miles east of this project area. In addition several other projects have been identified that account for approximately 15,000 acres of habitat improvement. The state of Utah has designated Joe's Valley/Reeder subdivision communities as a "Community at Risk" in regards to catastrophic fire. The state of Utah has recently completed a fuels reduction project in Reeder Sub-division; this project will enhance the defensible space in this community. In addition this will also help protect one of the very few stands of mature ponderosa pine stands on the Manti-La Sal National Forest.

Potential Risks: Reduction in sagebrush, Ponderosa Pine, and Cottonwood dependent species. Increase risk of catastrophic fire in the Joe's Valley/Reeder subdivision communities.

Proposed Methods: The Joe's Valley PJ retreat will remove 90% of all pinyon/juniper in the project area. All stumps from the initial treatment that has lower live limbs will also be treated. Fire will be re-introduced in the ponderosa pine ecosystem on a 3 to 15 year return interval. Mechanical treatment will start on approximately July 1st with 3 bobcat skid steers in operation and should take approximately 50 days at 26 acres per day.

Shapefile Name: jv_pj_retreat.shp

Seed Source: none

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 12/04/2007

Proposed NEPA Action:

Proposed Arch Action:

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

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Monitoring Details: Photo points will be established to monitor pre and post treatment vegetation. UDWR rand trend studies are within the project polygon, and there is a longe term USFS grazing exclosure on the site as well.

**Cons. Outreach
Details:**

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer	Elk
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LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	1296
Total	1296

PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
DNR Watershed (FY09)	\$25,000.00		\$0.00
USFS	\$45,000.00		\$0.00
Habitat Acct 174	\$10,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$80,000.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

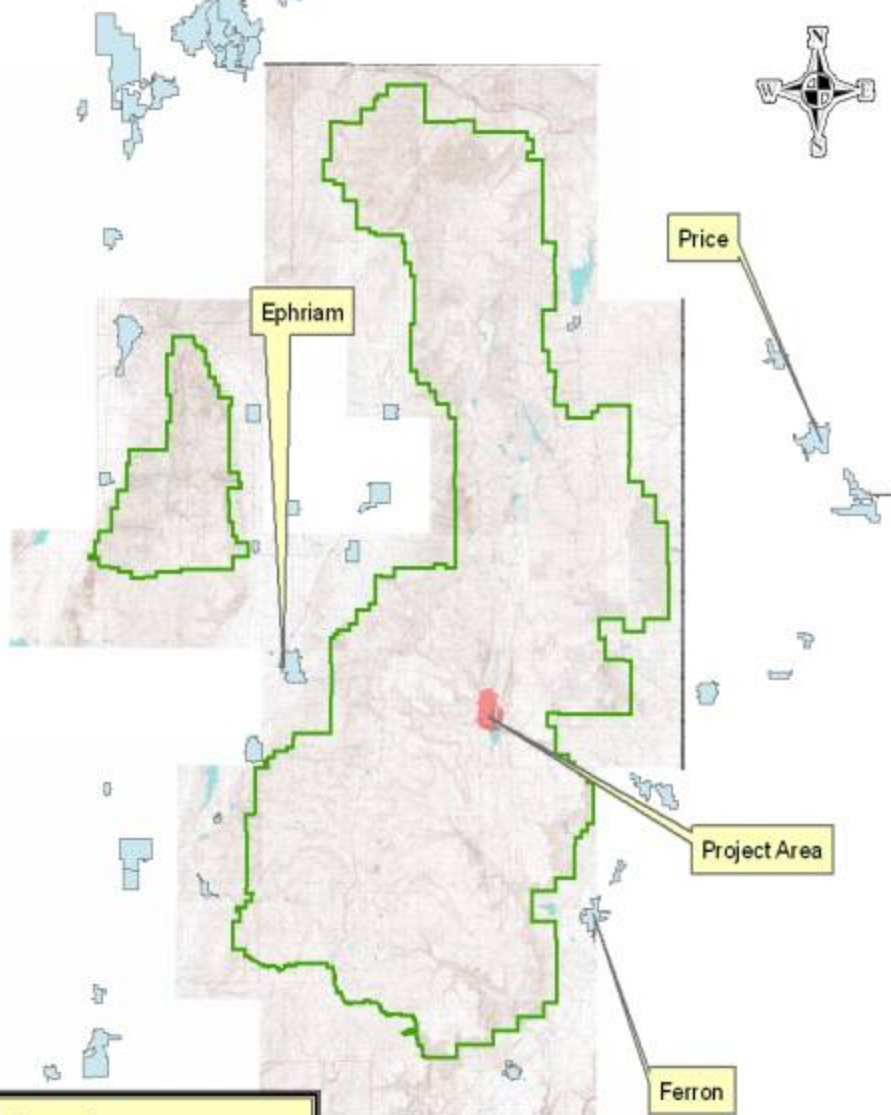
Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Personal Services	Juniper removal 1296 ac @ \$60/ac	\$35,000.00	\$45,000.00
	Totals	\$35,000.00	\$45,000.00

PROPOSED FUNDING ALLOCATION

Funding Type	Funding Percent
Big Game	100
Total	100.00%

Project Map:

Joel Valley P/J Re-treatment



Legend

- Joel Valley P/J Re-treatment
- cities05 polygon

0 4 8 16 Miles

